

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 OIC-02 SS-15 SP-02 L-03

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R 090014Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT, OAS PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS FOR ROK

REFERENCE: STATE 182547

1. ROK COUNTRY DIRECTOR AND USOAS MISSION OFFICER MET JULY 8 WITH COUNSELOR YOO AND FIRST SECRETARY CHOI OF ROK EMBASSY TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO ROK APPROACH OUTLINED IN REFTEL. AT OUTSET, KOREAN REPS WERE ASSURED USG WOULD SUPPORT ROK APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT OBSERVER(PO) STATUS IF BROUGHT BEFORE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF OAS. DEPT OFFICERS THEN DETAILED PROCEDURAL STEPS NECESSARY TO GET REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS CONSIDERED BY OAS.

2. DEPT OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT UNDER CHARTER OF OAS PO STATUS LIMITED TO COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN OAS PROGRAMS. IN EFFECT, THIS HAS MEANT SPONSORSHIP OF AN OAS-APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. AS FIRST STEP,
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MAJORITY OF PERMANENT COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO VOTE TO ACCEPT ROK'S ENTRY INTO NEGOTIATION WITH SECRETARIAT ON DEVELOPMENT OF A PROJECT. ON BASIS OF ON-GOING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, PERMANENT COUNCIL WOULD CONSIDER

FINAL APPLICATION FOR PO STATUS.

3. KOREAN REPS ASKED WHAT LIKELY DOLLAR AMOUNT OF SUCH PROGRAM WOULD BE AND PROBABLY TIME LAG BETWEEN INITIATION OF PROJECT AND APPROVAL OF PO STATUS BY PERMANENT COUNCIL. WE SUGGESTED THEY DISCUSS SCALE AND COST OF EARLIER APPLICANTS' PROGRAMS WITH OAS OFFICIALS INFORMALLY OR WITH CURRENT PO COUNTRIES, CANADA, BELGIUM, ISRAEL, JAPAN, ETC. DELAY BETWEEN PERMANENT COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF ENTRY INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND FINAL VOTE ON PO STATUS HAS VARIED CONSIDERABLY BUT MINIMUM TIME LIKELY TO BE ONE YEAR. DEPT OFFICERS POINTED OUT THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAD BEEN FACTOR IN DELAY OF SOME APPLICATIONS, E.G., PORTUGAL, RECOMMENDING ROK EMBASSY ALSO TAKE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AMONG EMBASSIES OF MEMBER STATES WITH WHICH IT MAINTAINS GOOD CONTACTS.

4. OUR PURPOSE THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION WAS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ROK INTEREST IN PO STATUS AND FIRM IN ASSURING USG SUPPORT WHILE EXPLAINING PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES AND DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF EARLY OAS ACTION ON A REQUEST FOR PO STATUS.

5. EMBASSY OFFICERS TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF POINTS MADE AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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